

# The Written Word

NO. 1 • VOL. XX • 1ST QUARTER 2024

“

**One need never be dull as long as one has friends to help, gardens to enjoy, and books in the long winter evenings.**

”

**-D. E. Stevenson**

## IN THIS ISSUE

Spring Conference .....	1-2
Young Writers .....	3-4
Networking/Social Event ...	4
Remembering Joan Hansen ...	5
Waterproof White .....	6-7
U.P. Notable .....	8-9
Write .....	10
Writing Events .....	11
Copyright .....	12-13
Member News .....	14-19
U.P. Reader Authors ....	20-21
Book Reviews .....	22

## Spring Conference 2024

Join us for the UPPAA Spring Conference on May 18th, 2024 at the Peter White Public Library in Marquette, Michigan. Our keynote speaker will be Brian Bosley, the creator of the innovative philosophy “Bamboo Progress!”; a straightforward method of success coaching based on the idea that excellence starts with first choosing to think, feel, and behave like a world-class performer. As owner of The Bamboo Lab located in Gladstone, Michigan, Brian is an in-demand peak performance coach, writer, and speaker with more than twenty-five years’ experience. Brian loves to read, spend time outdoors, and follow University of Michigan football. He is a Michigan native, the proud father of two, “bonus dad” to four, and Grandpa B.

### Highlights from the 2023 Conference





## Conference sessions include both Marketing and Writing Tracks

For each of the three conference session timeslots, you can choose a marketing or writing session, whichever suits you best!

### Marketing Track

- “Self Publishing 101” with Tyler Tichelaar
- “Marketing Your Self-Published eBooks and Audiobooks” with Joshua Chad
- “Sell Your Books More Effectively in Person - Roundtable” with Mikel Classen and Debbie Frontiera

### Writing Track

- “Preparing for Traditionally Publishing Your Children’s Book in the NonFiction Market” with Carrie Pearson
- “Weaving Romance Around Suspense with Intro Into Plot Twisting” with Sylvia Hubbard
- “Finding Your Writer’s voice” with Tabatha Hines

Watch the UPPAA.org site or the UPPAA mailing list for forthcoming details. A delicious lunch is included for all attendees.

As always, **attendance is free to 2024 UPPAA members in good standing**. If you have yet to renew, please do so now at <https://www.uppaa.org/join-or-renew/>. Attendees are required to register in advance so that we can properly plan the lunch menu and space usage at the library. A link to do so will be available and the information will be sent out.

# UPPAA Young Writers Storytelling Workshop

We are excited to announce a new addition to the 2024 UPPAA Conference—the Young Writers Storytelling Workshop. We have planned a track for middle and high schoolers to encourage them to become young writers. It will run in parallel to the main conference, but the sessions will be aimed at a youthful audience who are at the beginning of their writing journeys. U.P. sixth to twelfth graders are encouraged to participate. A \$15 fee will be charged for individual students, while appropriately-aged children of UPPAA members with family packages can attend for free. All students are welcome including homeschoolers.

Four award-winning U.P. authors have generously volunteered to present to this young population of aspiring authors. In addition, a handful of others are working behind the scenes to facilitate this new initiative. Below is the Young Writers Storytelling Workshop Schedule.

## Young Writers Storytelling Workshop Schedule

### 9:45–10:45 – Morning Session #1

**Cyndi Perkins—Why do you write?  
Getting to know you.**

This journalist and professional editor who lives in the Keweenaw will start the day off with warm-up activities to get the youth comfortable and enthusiastic about writing.

### 11:00–12:00 – Morning Session #2

**John Hagen—What’s the problem?  
Conflict builds stories.**

John is an author from St. Ignace, with many accolades to his name. He will guide participants through an investigation of conflict—the essential element of story—to encourage them to create a compelling plot that makes a page turner.

### 1:45–2:45 – Afternoon Session #1

**Nikki Mitchell—Who is this about?  
Creating cool characters.**

Nikki is a young-adult writer from Iron Mountain. Her session will focus on how to create vibrant characters that jump off the page into the reader’s imagination.

### 3:00–4:00 – Afternoon Session #2

**Ann Dallman—Where are they?  
Setting for success.**

Ann is a journalist turned middle-grade author who will finish the day with lessons for writing a suitable setting that encourages the right atmosphere and mood while complementing other story elements and adding to comprehension.

**If you would like to assist with this new initiative here is what you can do to help:**

- Talk to your teenage children, who are in sixth to twelfth grade, about attending the UPPAA Conference with you to participate in the Young Writer's Storytelling Workshop.
- Reach out to middle and high school teachers and principals across the U.P. and tell them about the Young Writer's Storytelling Workshop on May 18 at the Peter White Library in Marquette. We expect most participants will be local to Marquette county.
- Donate money to fund one or more youth who may not be able to attend without a scholarship. Contact [treasurer@uppaa.org](mailto:treasurer@uppaa.org) for details.
- Donate money for extra supplies and/or stationary that may be necessary for this new initiative.

**We are proud to grow the population of the UPPAA Conference attendance by starting this new track for a new generation of members.**

## **Join us for the Pre-Conference Networking / Social Event**

**B**y popular demand, the UPPAA Board has opened up our Pre-Conference Networking/Social Event on Friday May 17th to all UPPAA members. The event will take place from 6pm to 8pm at "The Crib" coffeehouse+bar, 401 N 3rd St, Marquette, MI 49855. The Crib is about a block from the library and parking is available in the Crib parking lot, on the street, or in the Bluff Street parking deck two blocks away.

The Crib offers coffees, teas, and a full bar serving beer, wine, ciders, and cocktails (this is a cash bar event). You can meet and collaborate with other UPPAA members including many of the board members and breakout speakers. UPPAA will be catering appetizers for our members, who will have access to seating on both floors. The Crib is handicap-accessible for the 1st floor. There will be a nominal charge to defray expenses of food and the venue rental. You'll have the opportunity to indicate your interest by ticking a checkbox when the conference registration page is open.



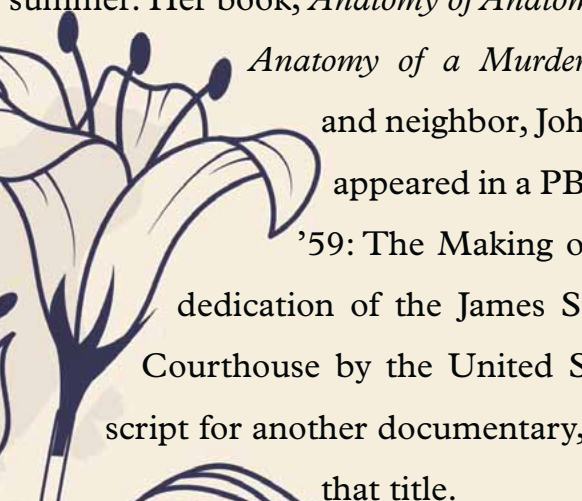


## Remembering UPPAA Member Joan Hansen (1932–2023)

*By Victor R. Volkman*

**M**rs. Hansen was a member of the Marquette Community Theater where she directed, sang, acted, directed properties, and was in general a jack-of-all-trades. She sang for many years with the Choraleers of Ishpeming, was a member of the Ishpeming Coral Club directed by Dr. Joseph Bertucci and was a charter member of the Marquette Choral Society. She was a member of the Bell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the Wawonowin Country Club, and has enjoyed golfing, bird hunting and deer hunting over the years.

Joan published many magazine articles concerning boating, an activity which she and her husband enjoyed at their camp on Lake Michigamme and for a month on the Great Lakes each summer. Her book, *Anatomy of Anatomy: The Making of a Movie*, concerns the making of the film *Anatomy of a Murder* which was based on the book written by her friend and neighbor, John D. Voelker (pen name Robert Traver) of Ishpeming. Joan appeared in a PBS documentary about the making of this movie, “Anatomy ’59: The Making of a Classic Motion Picture.” She also participated in the dedication of the James Stewart stamp which was held in the Marquette County Courthouse by the United States Postal Service. Later Joan wrote and narrated the script for another documentary, “Anatomy of Anatomy” which was based on her book by that title.



# Waterproof White #5: We Are All Regional Writers!

By Kathleen Carlton Johnson

I have been a member of UPPAA for several years. I am always awed by the people who make up this organization and the drive and creativity they exhibit. The energy, interest, and diversity displayed are impressive, whether a novel, short story, poetry, or historical narrative. In this little article, I want to share a few comments prompted by my reading of Dana Gioia's book, *Can Poetry Matter?* If you have not read it, I think you should. It is a series of essays that were published in 1992. Although that was some time ago, what he says is still valid today.

The two essays I would direct you to are "The Anonymity of the Regional Poet" and the following essay, "Business of Poetry." Both make excellent reading for anyone who writes, but they are interesting to all in UPPAA.

In this group, there are writers of every stripe, but we are all regional writers. Gioia has some exciting insights for the regional writer. His essay opens with the poet Ted Kooser, a poet who was a local writer, born in Ames, Iowa, and educated at the University of Nebraska. He would come to win the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and serve as the Poet Laureate of the Library of Congress. This is interesting because Ted only wrote about the simple things he knew about in his regional area of the United States. The power of his details and subjects transcended to the world outside his hometown. The details and local color were essentially about all human beings.

I have watched as many of the titles and subjects chosen by our local authors are

about our local area. The dialog and the setting are familiar to all who live here. Yes, I know some write fictional places and beings, but often, the local creeps in and is noticeable. In another article, I stated that Art can be found anywhere, even in your neighborhood. Often, writers think they must experience or travel to see Art. Not so. Regional writers must be sensitive to our characters or places we know best. You have heard the adage, "Write what you know."

*"Regional writers  
must be sensitive  
to our characters  
or places we know  
best."*

The essay goes on to list some of the traits that make up regional writing. He lists these qualities: A diction drawn from the common place where you live, subjects that are part of your everyday experience, for example, "early snow." For instance, the language surrounding the typical and average situation, snow shoveling. The simple does not have to be shallow. Removing snow, as straightforward as it is, could be made profound by how it is presented, perhaps in an internal monologue. He points out, "Language, imagery, ideas, attitudes, even the range of emotions reflect the landscape, climate culture in which he / she has spent their entire life."

It is not that regional topics have to stay regional. The piece's writing, ideas, structure, and excellence make it about the human experience. Remember, it was Hemingway who first started as a newspaper reporter in a regional newspaper, the Kansas City Star. He learned the tight structure and economy of the language needed for his articles, which would stay with him throughout his writing career. His regional understanding taught him to see the transcendent values of the human experience.

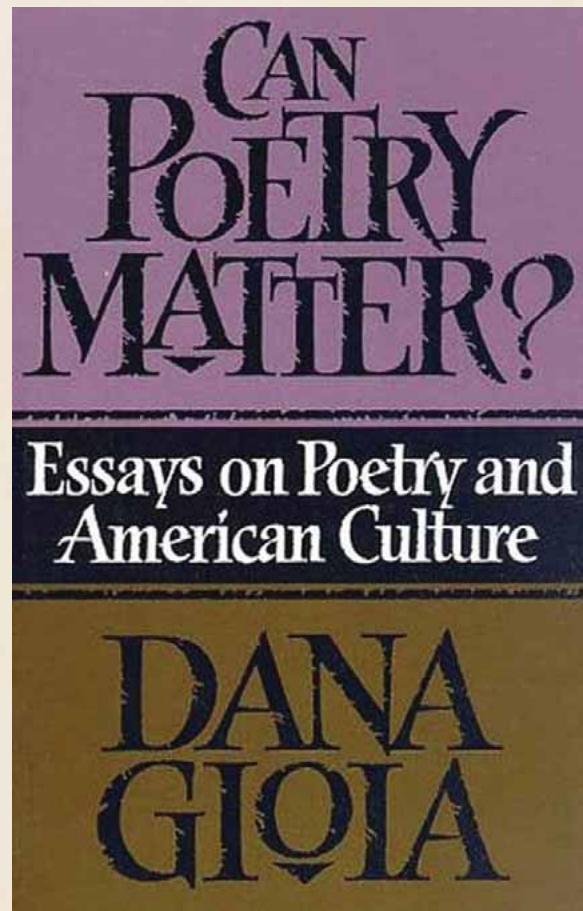
Another famous writer who started regionally was Eudora Welty. She was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and lived almost her whole life there. She started out writing and doing photography for the local paper in Jackson. She would become a Pulitzer Prize winner for her local and regional books and stories. She used her regional voice and eye to see the human nature of us all.

ALL writers should read the second essay. It gives a practical perspective on the Art of writing and the basic needs to support yourself. One should first be in love with the idea of producing work, and yes, you must make a living before becoming a known writer or poet. If your work's aim is money, the Art shall be secondary and most likely will not be memorable. Remember Wallace Stevens, perhaps the most accomplished and well-known American poet, was a vice president of an insurance firm. William Carlos Williams was a doctor and wrote in between patients. Money is not the aim of Art. Art is about the voice that reveals human nature.

The regional writer is an essential figure in American letters. They represent the local color, geography, and values that

make the region unique in our cultural landscape. The local writers use local topics, diction, and characters, bringing them alive in their work as gifts to the community they serve. The honesty of your work presents the regional color and textures; great stories and poems are born here.

Gioia leaves us with these words of wisdom: "The regional writer needs to develop their character strong enough to withstand both failure and success." We write because we have to, not to become a Pulitzer recipient.



*Please feel free to contact me, and perhaps we can get a poetry group going in our UPPAA. I don't bite! My email: kcarltonjohnson70@yahoo.com*

# U.P. Notable Books Announced

UPPAA announced the 5th Annual U.P. Notable Books List on January 2nd 2024. UPPAA Notable Books chairman **Mikel Classen** initiated the effort in 2019 as a response to the lack of representation of U.P. writers in other Michigan state literary circles. Classen said, “Traditionally, recognition of Michigan books has been dominated by the university presses downstate and we would like to take this opportunity to highlight literature that focuses closer to home for us.” We were overwhelmed by the media response to this year’s announcement which resulted in a TV6 Marquette news segment featuring Evelyn Gathu, Tyler Tichelaar, and Sue Harrison on the very same day of the announcement.

To build this fifth annual list, UPPAA consulted with Upper Michigan booksellers, book reviewers, writers, and publishers to winnow down the notable books to a bare ten titles. These titles demonstrate the wide reach of U.P. literature as they span juvenile, middle-grade, YA, and adult audiences. You can find reviews of many of these books on the UP Book Review. The award committee emphasizes that the list is unranked, each title deserves equal merit as U.P. Notable Book. These ten books have been deemed essential reading for every U.P. lover, and we highly recommend you ask your local librarian or booksellers for them today!

01

*The Great Seney Fire: A History of the Walsh Ditch Fire of 1976* by Gregory M. Lusk (Snowsnake Press, 2023)

02

*Grim Paradise: The Cold Case Search for the Mackinac Island Killer* by Rod Sadler (WildBlue Press, 2023)

03

*Odin’s Eye: A Marquette Time Travel Novel* by Tyler R. Tichler (Marquette Fiction, 2023)

04

*Midwife’s Touch* by Sue Harrison (Shanty Cove Books, 2023)

05

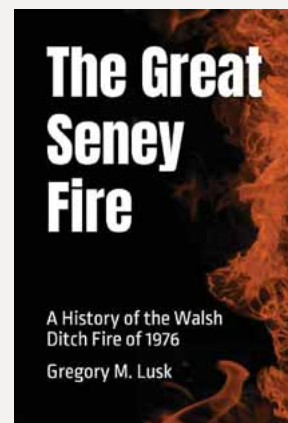
*Yooper Ale Trails: Craft Breweries and Brewpubs of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula* by Jon C. Stott (Modern History Press, 2023)

06

*Unsolved Mysteries of Father Marquette’s Many Graves* by Jennifer S. McGraw (Pine Stump Publications, 2023)

07

*Prehistoric Copper Mining in Michigan: The Nineteenth-Century Discovery of “Ancient Diggings” in the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale* by John R. Halsey (UMich Press, 2018)

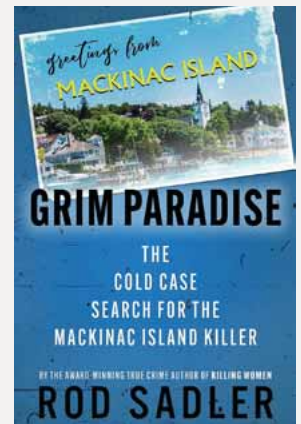




08 *Brockway Mountain Stories* by Paul LaVanway (Mudminnow Press, 2023)

09 *Who Am I?* by Julie Buchholtz (Sleeping Bear Press, 2023)

10 *A Nostalgic Lens: Photographs and Essays from Michigan's Upper Peninsula* by Peter Wurdock (Blue Boundary Books, 2023)



## This Year's U.P. Notable Classics

The U.P. Notable Books Committee continues their initiative called *U.P. Notable Classics* that highlights significant U.P. themed literature that has remained essential for at least 10 years. It is the committee's hope that these books can bring enjoyment to a new generation of readers.

📖 *Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder* by Steve Lehto (Momentum Press, 2006)

📖 *Murder at Mackinac: A Novel* by Ronald J. Lewis (Agawa Press, 1995)

The U.P. Notable Books List will appear in the upcoming **8th volume of *U.P. Reader***, UPPAA's own annual literary anthology featuring short stories, poetry, and essays by its members. This successful publication helps spread the word about the organization, raises money for educational programming, and encourages people in the Upper Peninsula and beyond to read U.P. writers. Complimentary copies of the *U.P. Reader* are available to all U.P. educators and media for the asking. The on-sale date is scheduled for April 15th. Consult your local bookseller for availability or purchase on Amazon. For more information, visit [www.UPReader.org](http://www.UPReader.org).

# Write, Even if Only a Grocery List

By Sharon M. Kennedy

Lots of things are more daunting than a blank sheet of paper or an empty Word screen unless you're a writer. Once you've cleaned the house, vacuumed the car, walked the dog, baked a batch of oatmeal cookies, organized your desk, and banished everyone to grandma's house, it's time to sit down and write. There are no distractions. Your fingers are resting on the keyboard. Your mind is sifting through all the ideas you had while doing chores. You were certain this time the story would actually get written. Unfortunately, the words won't come.

What a disappointment. Fooled again. Your characters are stuck somewhere in your mind doing something you can't imagine. They've become errant children, running in all directions. They refuse to settle down and allow you to turn them and their situations into realistic people doing exciting things readers would love. You're angry that, once again, they foiled your attempt at getting them on that blank sheet. You stare at the empty page and wonder why you even pretend to be a writer. In frustration and feeling emotionally whipped, your creative energy slips away.

The scene I painted is bleak, but it's also common for writers. When we've finished one project and are ready to move on to the next, sometimes we're at a loss how to start. That's when it's time to write anything, even if it's only a grocery list. Instead of throwing up your hands in disgust, return to your keyboard or yellow pad or whatever it is you write on and compose something as mundane as what you need to buy at the store. Eggs, sugar, ketchup, Kleenex, toilet paper. Every item I've listed might be the genesis of a story.

I'll give you examples. The egg you cracked this morning had two yolks. Why? Ask the lonely man who lives down the road from you and raises chickens. Why does most sugar now come from beets instead of canes? Is Heinz ketchup really better than Great Value's or have we been brainwashed? How long ago did you notice the size of Kleenex tissues had shrunk? When did pink, blue, and yellow toilet paper disappear from store shelves? These are simple questions derived from a grocery list. They might jumpstart a story with interesting characters and complex plots.

*"It doesn't matter  
what you put on that  
blank page."*

Look around your room and write the emotions stirred within you when you see that ratty old chair your father wouldn't part with. Why does Aunt Millie's wedding picture anger you? Who bought that ridiculous gnome? In other words, the most important thing about writing is to write. It doesn't matter what you put on that blank page. As you write, more words will come followed by characters who will demand to be heard. Scenes will appear. A new story will emerge. You'll be on your way again, renewed and refreshed by something as simple as a grocery list or Aunt Millie's photograph.

SHARON M. KENNEDY is the author of the SideRoad Kids series featuring coming-of-age stories set in the late 1950s near Brimley, Michigan. Her other books include *The SideRoad Columnist*, a collection of reminiscences about everyday life in the U.P.



# Writing Events

## The Bards of Northern Michigan

In recognition of National Poetry Month, join us for a celebration of spoken word. Talented regional poets will read from their published works featured in (but not limited to) the following anthologies: *Walloon Review*; *U.P. Reader*; *Dunes Review*; and *Peninsula Poets*.

Join our Master of Ceremonies—poet Art Curtis—and others, including Ellen Lord, Thomas Ford Conlan, Susan Griffin, Michael Hughes, Paul Maxbauer, Andrew Riutta, Carol Sanford, Yvonne Stevens, Edd Tury, Katherine Roth, Terry Wooten, and Glenn Young. Glenn will also discuss the art and craft of submitting poems for publication.

**Cost:** FREE

**Date:** April 16th, 6:00pm

**Location:** Charlevoix Public Library

## Living Superior Fair

Authors. Artists. Makers. Local businesses. SunMoon Arts presents the 1st Annual Living Superior Fair.

**Cost:** FREE to attend; \$50 to reserve a vendor table

**Date:** April 6th, 11:00am–4:00pm

**Location:** Rozsa Center 1400 Townsend Drive Houghton, MI 49931

**To Register:** [livingsuperiorfair.com](http://livingsuperiorfair.com)

## Upper Peninsula Writer's Symposium: A Day of Inspiration for Writers of All Skill Levels

The Upper Peninsula Writer's Symposium hosted by Hessel School House - Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center is aimed at fostering creativity, enhancing writing skills, and building a vibrant community of writers in the region. It is organized in partnership with the Upper Peninsula Publishers and Authors Association and made possible through the generous support of ArtsMidwest, Michigan Arts & Culture Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

One of the highlights of the symposium will be the keynote address by #1 *New York Times* Bestselling author, Angeline Boulley. Angeline is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, known for her captivating storytelling and profound cultural insights.

Hessel School House, host of the Upper Peninsula Writer's Symposium, invites creative people to meet in a beautifully restored 1937 schoolhouse. The relaxed pace of the Les Cheneaux area is the idyllic environment for artists of all mediums, especially writers.

**Cost:** TBD

**Date:** June 22, all day

**Location:** Hessel School House

**To Register:** Registration is slated to open in March on [www.hesselschoolhouse.org](http://www.hesselschoolhouse.org)



# Explaining Some of the Mysteries of Copyright Registration

By David Koehser

Sections 408–412 of the US Copyright Act contain the general rules and procedures for the registration of copyrights, but the process can still be somewhat intimidating and confusing. As explained below, while registration is not mandatory, it is recommended, as there are some benefits to registration. If you are self-publishing your book, you will most likely want to register the copyright. If you have entered into a contract with a trade publisher for the publication of your book, your contract will probably require the publisher to register the copyright, but you will still want to monitor the process to ensure that the copyright is properly registered. You should also request a copy of the registration certificate when it is issued.

Some of the questions commonly raised in connection with copyright registration are addressed below:

## **Is registration required to obtain a copyright?**

No. A copyright—consisting of the bundle of exclusive rights in a work—arises upon the fixation of an original work in a tangible medium of expression, which can include print, film, videotape, or digital file.

## **Is registration required otherwise?**

No. Section 408(a) of the Copyright Act states that the owner of the copyright in a work “*may* obtain registration of the copyright claim” by delivering certain items to the Copyright Office.

## **Then why register?**

Although registration is not required to obtain or hold a copyright, it is required to sue for

infringement. You cannot file a lawsuit for infringement of your copyright unless and until you have registered that copyright. In a 2019 decision, the Supreme Court held that a copyright will be deemed to have been registered so as to satisfy the registration requirement and permit an infringement lawsuit to be filed only if the Registrar of Copyrights has issued a registration certificate. In other words, merely applying for a registration will not satisfy the registration requirement for purposes of initiating an infringement action. If a copyright owner discovers an infringement before a registration certificate has been issued, the owner will have to wait until the registration certificate is issued before commencing an action for that infringement.

## **Are there any timing requirements for registration?**

No, but there may be some benefits to applying earlier rather than later. As noted above, while a registration certificate is required to commence an action for infringement, a copyright owner could wait until an infringement occurs before registering. In that case, the owner would not be able to sue until the registration certificate has been issued (which can take up to a year from the date of application), but the right to sue would merely be delayed rather than lost.

In addition to being able to sue immediately if a registration certificate has been issued prior to the time an infringement begins, registration of a copyright prior to an infringement entitles the copyright owner to seek statutory damages of \$750 to \$30,000, plus an award of attorney’s fees. Interestingly enough, for purposes of seeking statutory damages and attorney’s fees, the registration only needs to have been applied for prior to commencement of the in-

fringement. Thus filing an application prior to an infringement is sufficient for seeking statutory damages and attorney's fees, but a lawsuit for that infringement cannot be commenced until the registration certificate has actually been issued.

The provision for statutory damages and attorney's fees conveys several benefits to a copyright owner. First, the owner does not have to prove actual damages, and can merely ask the court to award damages within the \$750 to \$30,000 range. Second, if the infringement qualifies as "willful," the statutory damages amount can be increased by the court to up to \$150,000. Finally, and perhaps of greatest importance, the threat of an award of statutory damages and attorney's fees is usually sufficient to induce an infringer to cease infringement and agree to a quick settlement.

In the case of a published work, the Copyright Act provides an additional brief window for entitlement to statutory damages and attorney's fees. If an application for registration is filed within 90 days of first publication, the copyright owner will be able to seek statutory damages and attorney's fees, even if the infringement begins before the application for registration is filed.

Prompt registration can also provide a benefit in the case of ownership disputes. Under Section 410(c) of the Copyright Act, a certificate of registration issued before or within five years after first publication constitutes prima facie evidence of the validity of the copyright and the facts (including the name of the copyright claimant) stated in the certificate. Anyone seeking to dispute any of the facts stated in the certificate would have to present clear and convincing evidence to refute those facts.

### **Which version of my work should I register?**

As a general rule you only need to register the final version of a work, in the form prepared

for publication. It is usually not necessary to register drafts of a work, as those drafts will not be seen by anyone so as to be copied (i.e., infringed), and thus there is usually no benefit to registering. If you publish a revised edition of a registered work, you can register the copyright in that revised edition, but the registration will only apply to any new material that was added to form the revised edition. The first edition of the work will continue to be covered by the earlier registration for that edition.

### **When will my registration expire?**

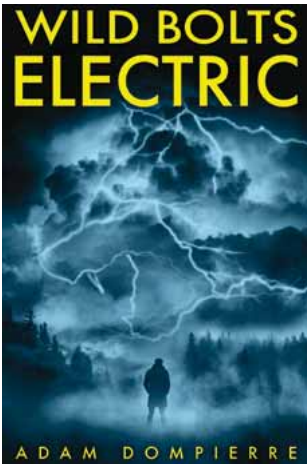
Under the 1909 Copyright Act, it was necessary to file a renewal registration to keep your copyright in effect. However, the 1976 Act did away with renewal requirements, and as a result a copyright registration will remain in effect for the full term of the copyright in the work, which is generally the author's life plus 70 years.

The Copyright Office has more information on registration, including a link to the Electronic Copyright Office Registration System, on its website, at [www.copyright.gov/registration](http://www.copyright.gov/registration).

---

*David Koehser has been practicing copyright and publishing law and working with publishers and authors for more than 35 years. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa and the University of Minnesota Law School. He is a past member of the Board of the Minnesota Book Publishers Roundtable and has also served as chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association Art & Entertainment Law Section and the Hennepin County Bar Association Business Law Section. He can be reached by email at [dklaw@cognisinc.com](mailto:dklaw@cognisinc.com) or by phone at (612) 910-6468.*

# Member News



**Adam Dompierre's** first novel, *Wild Bolts Electric*, came out in October.

“Suspecting his best days are behind him, Victor Drake runs an out-of-the-way detective agency that provides him with just enough to get by. But when James

Chandler comes to him desperately seeking deliverance from a menacing stalker who seems to possess supernatural powers, Drake needs to recapture his mettle to take on the challenge of a lifetime.

“Though he initially regards the paranormal elements of the story as preposterous, Drake agrees to the job. A twisting investigation encircles James’ physicist girlfriend Claire Ventura, her mob associate father, and a highly-secretive program with connections to Claire’s university. There, a reluctant source warns Drake to abandon his pursuit or risk provoking the wrath of extraordinary forces.

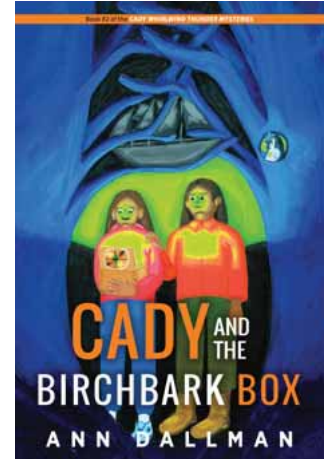
“Overpowered but undaunted, Drake must rally his wits and resilience to discover the secret behind this fearsome adversary. With time and circumstance working against him, can he neutralize the threat before lives are lost?”

Adam was recently interviewed by both TV6 (<http://tinyurl.com/mrx98v2v>) and *The Mining Journal* (<http://tinyurl.com/mvm8wnz3>).

The Marinette/Menominee Eagle Herald reported *Cady and the Birchbark Box* by local author **Ann Dallman** was named recently as

a finalist in the 2023 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards (Juvenile category). The book also garnered honors as a U.P. Notable Book and was recognized by the Historical Society of Michigan as an Outstanding Michigan History Publication (Children & Youth).

“This was a challenging book to write as I brought together so many elements—shipwrecks on the Great Lakes, a mysterious birchbark box, the restoring of the reputation of a tribal elder and my young heroine’s struggle with many changes



universal to young people. Uniting it all is her close relationship with her grandmother,” Dallman explained.

Dallman’s first book, *Cady and the Bear Necklace*, received the Midwest Book Award, Historical Society of Michigan’s award, New Mexico-Arizona Book Award, Next Generation Indie Book Award. Readers Favorite gave it a five-star review.

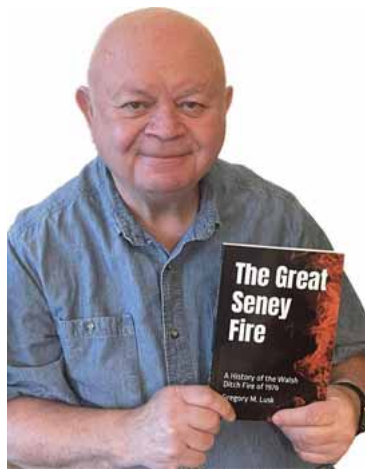
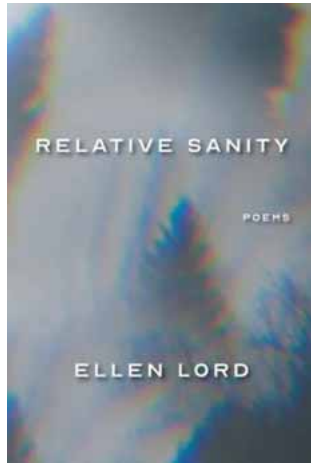


On Sunday, February 11th, at 2pm, author **Ellen Lord** will be at Alden Library to discuss her first poetry chapbook, *Relative Sanity*, published by Modern History Press (Ann Arbor). *Relative Sanity*

is a collection of thirty-five of her original poems. These elegiac poems emerge from the depths of Northern Michigan lakes and

forests, as well as from her own dark places with a poet's ear for what nature and being human can tell us.

The event is **free** to attend. Copies of her book will be available for purchase: \$10 cash or check. Sponsored by Friends of the Alden District Library, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

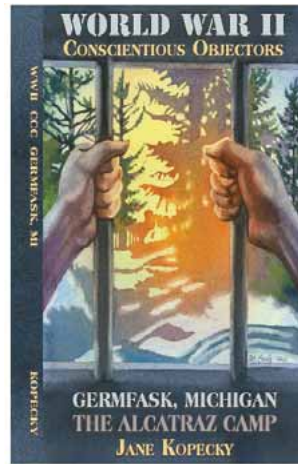


On September 22, 2023, **Gregory M. Lusk** received a State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in the category of Books: Private Printing for *The Great Seney Fire: A History of the Walsh Ditch Fire of 1976*, published by the

author. In the book, Lusk chronicled the events that led to the most destructive and costly fire in Michigan since 1908. Fueled by a record-setting drought, unclear policies, and initial inaction, what started as a small lightning-strike fire in the Seney National Wildlife Refuge quickly grew out of control, burning more than 72,000 acres in late July. While 1,200 firefighters worked to contain the blaze, only heavy winter snowfall would finally extinguish the flames.

His book was reviewed in the January 2024 issue of the *Marquette Monthly*. It was also selected as one of the U.P. top ten Notable Books of the Year.

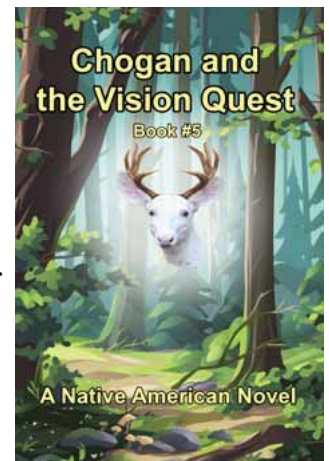
He will be at the Marquette Regional History Center on March 27, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. to present a program on his book and will provide details and stories about the Seney fire. He is making plans to have a book signing event at the Seney Lumberjack Festival on August 24.



**Jane Kopecky** appeared in the panel **Conscription, Conscientious Objection, and Draft Resistance in American History** at The International Peace History Conference on October 27th, 2023 at Gwynedd Mercy University in Pennsylvania. She is the author of *World War*

*II Conscientious Objectors: Germfask, Michigan the Alcatraz Camp* which won both the U.P. Notable Books award and Historical Society of Michigan's "State History Award" in 2020.

On January 2nd **Larry Buege** published *Chogan and the Vision Quest*, which is his 5th book in the Chogan Native American series. The series takes place along the southern shore of Lake Superior in 100 B.C. (Before Columbus).



Twelve-year-old Chogan is having recurrent nightmares about a bright light during a snowstorm and assumes the spirit world is trying to reach out to him. He embarks on a vision quest where he must fast for four days to seek an answer. Chogan receives his vision, but it leaves him more confused than ever. To make matters worse, a fall storm destroys the wild rice crop, and Chogan's village might not survive the winter. Along with starvation comes the dreaded scurvy. Everyone is on the verge of death. Chogan must now place his life on the line and snowshoe to Kitchi-Miniss (Grand Island) in search of a cure from the Medicine Woman. Only the wisdom gained during the vision quest can save Chogan and his village.

Embedded in this novel are references to six stand-alone web pages that explain Chogan's culture or a survival skill.

**Mack Hassler** has had several poems published in both the spring and fall issues of *Valley Voices*.

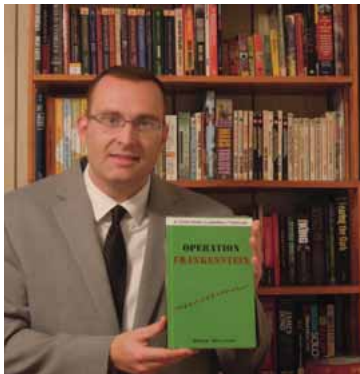
This is a journal published in Southern Mississippi, but his poems there deal with Up North topics:

“Walking our Dogs or And the Lord said to Samuel...” In *Valley Voices, A Literary Review*, volume 23, n 1 (spring 2023)

“Please Recover, Goose” In *Valley Voices, A Literary Review*, volume 23, n 2 (fall 2023)

“Human Marriage Balance Sheet or Sam’s Call”. In *Faunus 47 The Journal of the Friends of Arthur Machen* (summer 2023)

Each poem is part of a set of poems about Mack’s late wife haunting the woods near Vermilac in Baraga County where they spent summers for 30 years. More of the same set can be found in the *U.P. Reader*.



Local writer **Mick Gayan**, who publishes under the pen name Wade Walker, released his new novel, *Operation Frankenstein*, in October, just in time for the Halloween season.

*Operation Frankenstein* is a spy thriller novel with horror and science fiction elements featuring the exploits of secret agent Val West, the protagonist of his previous novel, 2022’s *Bite of the Wolf*.

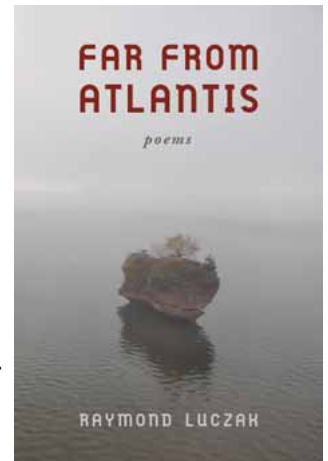
The new novel features the return of the werewolf secret agent superweapon known as Code Name: LoneWolf, and this time he is taking on another horror heavyweight—the classic horror icon, the Frankenstein Monster.

Code Name: LoneWolf takes on his most dangerous assignment yet, encountering terrifying creatures, beautiful, exotic, and deadly women, and finding himself in the fight of his life while uncovering scintillating sinister secrets on a pulsepounding journey into the shadow world

of spies and monsters, where no one and no thing are what they seem.

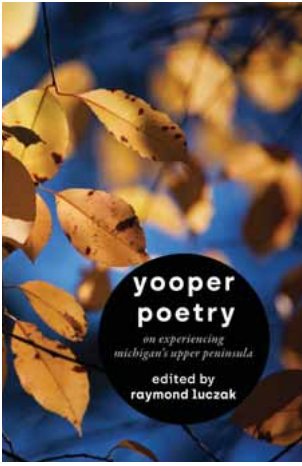
Both *Operation Frankenstein* and *Bite of the Wolf* are available to order online at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in Kindle, paperback, and hardcover formats. For more information, visit the official website at [www.codenamelonewolf.com](https://www.codenamelonewolf.com).

**Raymond Luczak** is very pleased to announce that the revamp of his web site ([raymondluczak.com](https://raymondluczak.com)) is more accessible with image descriptions (via alt-text) for those who are blind. Gallaudet University Press brought out his latest book of poems *Far from Atlantis* in November 2023.



The publisher has this to say about the book: “In *Far from Atlantis*, Raymond Luczak makes use of traditional poetic forms to tell the stories of two vastly different worlds: the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which often looks like an island on the map, and the fabled island of Atlantis. The poems in this collection are rooted in the natural world, with the power of water as a means for escaping the cruelty and tedium of an ableist society. While recounting his troubled childhood as the only deaf person in a large hearing family, Luczak aligns himself with mythological, monstrous, and superhuman beings who, like him, exist on the margins. The narratives invoked and the worlds created in these poems are both autoethnographic and speculative, and include figures lost to history like Lucy Frances Fitzhigh Hooe and Frances Peterson, along with 1970s pop culture icons like the Six Million Dollar Man and Wonder Woman.” For [YouTube.com/deafwoof](https://www.youtube.com/deafwoof), Luczak has created three separate *Far from Atlantis* videos in American Sign Language (ASL) featuring the poems “Years Before the Floods,” “Numbers,” and “O U I J A.” (Incidentally, his poem “O U J I A” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.)





He has just finished editing his latest anthology *Yooper Poetry: On Experiencing Michigan's Upper Peninsula*, which Modern History Press will bring out in April 2024. The publisher has said, “Sometimes the best way to learn about a unique region is to listen to the stories told by those

who’ve actually lived there. You learn things that no guidebook would ever tell you. You meet unforgettable characters who’ve strayed far off

the beaten path. And you see clearly again how the power of memory is so strong that they can still recall incidents decades later. Michigan’s Upper Peninsula has always been filled with remarkable sensations and indelible stories. With this anthology, the editor Raymond Luczak sought to include poets who not only live in the U.P., but also who used to live there. What did it mean to be a Yooper then? What about now? Even for those who no longer abide there, the U.P. is indeed a special place, and it isn’t just thanks to Mother Nature.” (Interested readers can go online at [www.tinyurl.com/ya-yoop](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya-yoop) to preorder.) He plans to make three new ASL videos from *Yooper Poetry*. Please be on the lookout at [YouTube.com/deafwoof!](http://YouTube.com/deafwoof!)

## New from Modern History Press

*Hummingbird: Messages from My Ancestors* by **Diana Raab:**

Synopsis: **Explore the depths of love and loss across three generations of women.**

*Hummingbird* is a spiritual memoir about the connection between three generations of women—the author, her mother and her beloved maternal grandmother whose wisdoms taught the author how to exist in the world by following her intuition and listening to her heart. Follow Diana on a journey of more than five decades as an author, nurse, research psychologist, teacher, cancer survivor, and more. With insightful prompts, the reader is also invited to explore their own ancestral connections.

“... Raab offers poignant and thoughtful insights



to help us heal intergenerational trauma. Raab rightly reminds us that our ancestors live on in us and we are invited to call on them anytime we need help . . .”

*The Alexandria Code: An Isabella Carter Adventure* by **Mikel B. Classen:**



Synopsis: Isabella Carter is an archaeologist who is on the brink of a discovery about how some ancient artifacts could change the future destiny of mankind. Unfortunately, there are evil forces led by the mysterious billionaire Lazarus

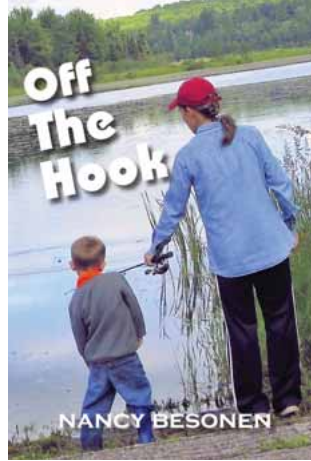
Fane who are hellbent on suppressing and destroying the knowledge of the ancients.

Can Dr. Carter, her grad students, and reluctant adventurer Aiden McKenzie

recover and decipher the Alexandria Code before the massive manhunt closes in? Join her on a trek that leads from Sault Ste. Marie to South America!

*Off the Hook: Off-Beat Reporter's Tales from Michigan's Upper Peninsula* by **Nancy Besonen**:

Synopsis: Back in 1981, publisher Ed Danner took a chance, hiring Nancy Besonen, a rookie reporter from Chicago's South Side, for his weekly newspaper, the *L'Anse Sentinel*. Her humor column, "Off the Hook," was ostensibly all about fishing, but she quickly cut loose, writing about anything relevant to life, especially in the Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as long as it made her readers smile.

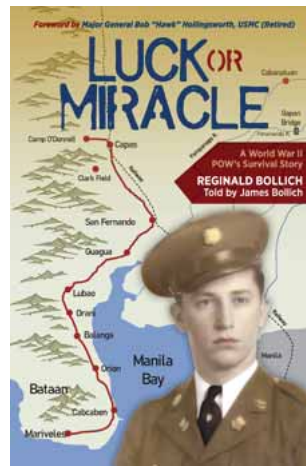


There's something for everyone with a strong sense of the ridiculous: "Ask Miss Demeanor," "Life's a Breach" and "Baldness: A Growing Concern." Also, "We Make Hay," "Men Are from Mud" and a particularly sensitive piece, "I'm Poopeye the Sailor Mom." From Michigan's tiniest predator, the no-see-um, to life's biggest challenges, like trying to fly into or out of the U.P., Besonen's on the beat.

*Luck or Miracle: A World War II POW's Survival Story* by **Reginald Bollich**:

Synopsis: **"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." - Nelson Mandela**

Jim Bollich, a 102-year-old World War II soldier, offers a first-person account of courage, fortitude and the will to survive three years of frostbitten captivity as a POW in Manchuria, enduring the Bataan

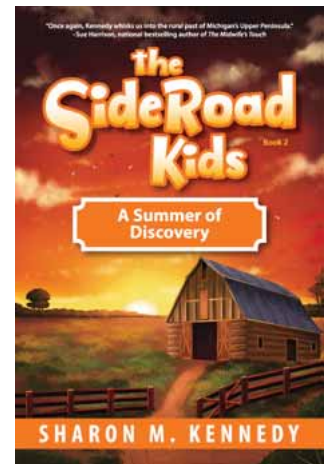


Death March, thirst, starvation, diseases, a 32-day sea voyage (crammed into the hold of a Japanese hell ship) and aerial bombings. After liberation, the transport ship to take him home hit a mine and lost power. A violent typhoon ensued and he had to lash himself to a bulkhead above deck to survive.

Jim survived because he strengthened his mind to confront evil and overcome fear in the face of danger, beatings and pain. Daily prayer strengthened his will to live.

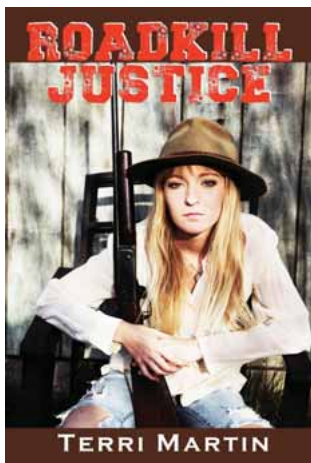
*The SideRoad Kids -- Book 2: A Summer of Discovery* by **Sharon M. Kennedy**:

Synopsis: *The SideRoad Kids Book 2: A Summer of Discovery* takes place throughout the summer of 1958 in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Readers familiar with *The SideRoad Kids: Tales from Chippewa County* will be reacquainted with



their favorite twelve-year-old characters and their discoveries. Blew learns who his father was. Flint discovers why Uncle Leo is mean. Shirley shares her fears with Katie. Elizabeth has a change of heart towards her step-brother, Ronnie. Squeaky falls in love. Fenders joins the Army. Candy makes Flint a promise she may not keep. Johnny's devotion to Katie increases, much to her delight or dismay. The SideRoad Kids have fun, but they also tackle serious issues and learn that adults do not always tell the truth.

*Roadkill Justice* by **Terri Martin**:



Synopsis: **Featuring Yooper Woodswoman Nettie Bramble!**

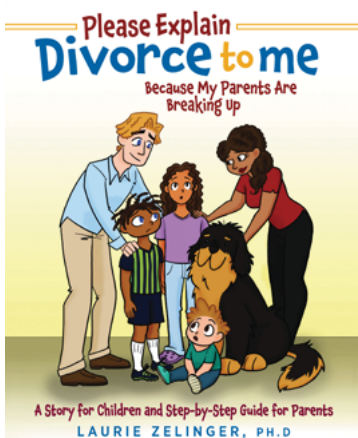
Nettie Bramble lives with her ma in Upper Michigan in a cabin that's slightly off the grid. She claims to "subsist" off the land and prefers to do so without the benefit of

hunting or fishing licenses. Nettie is bound to have a clash or two with the local woods cop, CO Will Ketchum, and the chronically cranky Judge Nightshade. Most places that Nettie goes, her "citified" nephews, Wanton and Wiley, tag along to muddle up her plans. Nettie will meet up with Church Lady Bea Righteous, as well as Tami and Evi Maki (thrice-removed cousins) in an erratic road rally with a cash prize that brings out the worst in everyone. No spoiler alert for the surprise ending in this collection of short stories featuring a strong dose of the Yooper way.

## New from Loving Healing Press

*Please Explain Divorce to Me!: Because My Parents Are Breaking Up* by **Laurie Zelinger**:

Synopsis: Because divorce or separation in cohabitating relationships is a family event, this book was written for both children and adults. Gently telling their children that they will be getting a divorce, a mother and father share their family story: the journey from their happy wedding day, through the conflict at present and into the near and reassuring future. The book's second half highlights important tips and insights for parents.



**Children will:**

- Learn about the divorce process
- Find out that their own parents' divorce is not their fault
- Discover that parents divorce each other; they do not divorce their children
- Be comforted knowing they are still part of a family who loves them
- Understand what it is like to have two homes

**Parents will:**

- Have a framework for telling their children they are getting a divorce
- Hear the common questions children ask
- Learn the DOs and DON'Ts regarding their own behavior
- Improve the likelihood of creating a healthier divorce
- Understand their children's reactions and support their emotions

# Authors Accepted for the 2024 U.P. Reader

*By Debbie Frontiera*

As coordinator, I would like to say congratulations to all those listed here. It's important for members to know that we had a record number of submissions this year! We also had to consider an anthology total word limit so we can continue to produce a quality publication at a price people are willing to pay with production and printing costs that continue to rise. It was tough to keep eliminating pieces until we were within that limit. Many quality works did not make the cut, and sometimes, it was a difference of ONE point. It was a long and difficult process for me. I had four scores for each piece and went by the total score. When two pieces had identical scores, I turned to Victor Volkman to break the tie.

## FICTION

Hilton Moore, "A Hole in the Bucket"  
Michael Peach, "Old Friends Having Lunch"  
Adam Dompierre, "The Hotel Bantam"  
Tom Conlan, "Places Few Have Seen"  
Tyler Tichelaar, "How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down"  
Becky Ross Michael, "Waters of Change"  
Maria Vezzetti Matson, "The Good Evening"  
Jodi Perras, "One Last Chance"  
Richard Hill, "Chiblow Lake"  
Rick Kent, "Two Rivers"  
John Adamcik, "The Fault Finders Quarry"  
J. L. Hagen, "When Christmas Changed to Easter"  
Brandy Thomas, "The Opportunity of a Lifetime"  
Art Curtis, "Letters to Harrison #8"  
Mark Nelson, "Baraga County Redemption"

## NONFICTION

Bill Sproule, "Doc Gibson and Professional Hockey in the U.P."  
Julie Dickerson, "Many Will Never See a Waterscape Like This"  
And "A Walk in the Woods"  
Gregory Lusk, "Taking Care of the Dog"  
Kathleen Carolton Johnson, "Dying in Rural Rockland"  
R. H. Miller, "Homage to the Pilgrim"  
Tamara Lauder, "The Writing Is on the Wall"

Ruth (Ellen) Lord, “Dorothy’s Apple Pie”  
Nancy Besonen, “All Customers Great and Small”  
Alex Noel (Alexandra Osetec), “Mozambique”  
Larry Jorgenson, “Memories of the Copper Country Limited”  
Jane Piirto, “The Seasons, the Years, the Decades”  
Beverly Matherne, “An Epistulary Poem”  
    And “Paranormal or Normal: That Is the Question”  
Nina Craig, “Roodedness”

## **POETRY**

T. Kilgore Splake, “Yooper Haiku”  
    And “Coming Home”  
    And, “Opening Day”  
Rosmary Gegare, “I Want to Say”  
    And “Afterglow”  
David Swindell, “Death of the Old 289”  
Raymond Luczak, “The North Country Sun”  
    And, “Jackquart’s”  
    And “A. Lanfear Norrie School”  
Tom Conlin, “Yellow Eyes”  
Kathleen Carlton Johnson, “When It Comes—A Poem for Voices”  
Mack Hassler, “Dog Park”  
    And “Our Silent Spring, Read for Friend”  
Tamara Lauder, “Dementia Is”  
John Adamcik, “Negatives at a Funeral”  
Ruth (Ellen) Lord, “North Country Connection”  
    And “Traveler”  
Edd Tury, “River Gipsy”  
Alex Noel (Alexandra Osetec), “Soak”  
    And “Spring”  
Brandy Thomas, “Meat”  
Beverly Matherne, “Haiku for Roger Magnuson”  
Art Curtis, “Wrapped: An Elegy for My Father”  
Nina Craig, “When Ice Cracks Open”  
Ninie Gasparaini Syarikin, “The Last Blooms”

# Where Can I Get My Book Reviewed?

*By Victor R. Volkman*

Perhaps you didn't know that UPPAA sponsors its own service called **U.P. Book Review** that exclusively features books by U.P. authors. These are reviewed by our own cadre of reviewers who have together covered almost 200 books since 2019!

Submit two paperback copies of books published in 2022, 2023, or 2024 to

U.P. Book Review  
5145 Pontiac Trail  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

**Here are some additional outlets where you can send your book if your book has been printed in the past 12 months.**

## **City Book Review**

*(Requires TWO copies; MUST be received within 60 Days of publication date!)*

City Book Review  
3201 Norris Ave  
Sacramento CA 95821-4040

## **Midwest Book Review**

*(Requires TWO copies, unmarked. No ARCs, galleys, or preprints.)*

James A. Cox / Editor-In-Chief  
Midwest Book Review  
278 Orchard Dr  
Oregon WI 53575-1129

## **Curious Books (Lansing, MI) with Ray Walsh**

*(Ray prefers books from Michigan authors but they don't have to be about Michigan.)*

Ray Walsh C/O  
Curious Book Shop  
307 E Grand River Ave  
East Lansing MI 48823-4324

## **Reader Views**

*(Only ONE book needed.)*

Reader Views Reviews  
11900 Jollyville Rd # 201673  
Austin Tx 78759-2304

## **Michigan in Books with Tom Powers**

*(ONE copy only. Books must be Michigan-only interest. No childrens or YA books please.)*

Tom Powers C/O  
Michigan In Books  
9331 Monica Dr  
Davison MI 48423-2862





**Upper Peninsula Publishers  
and Authors Association**

140 YOUNGS RD  
GWINN, MI 49841

*[www.uppaa.org](http://www.uppaa.org)*

*The Written Word is a publication of the  
Upper Peninsula Publishers and Authors Association*

President: Victor Volkman ..... [president@uppaa.org](mailto:president@uppaa.org)  
Vice President: Terri Martin ..... [vice.president@uppaa.org](mailto:vice.president@uppaa.org)  
Treasurer: Larry Buege ..... [treasurer@uppaa.org](mailto:treasurer@uppaa.org)  
Recording Secretary: Sharon Kennedy ..... [secretary@uppaa.org](mailto:secretary@uppaa.org)  
Membership Chair: Brandy Thomas ..... [membership@uppaa.org](mailto:membership@uppaa.org)  
Publications Chair: Debbie K. Frontiera ..... [publications@uppaa.org](mailto:publications@uppaa.org)  
Webmaster: **Jodi Perras** ..... [webmaster@uppaa.org](mailto:webmaster@uppaa.org)  
Newsletter Editor: Jansina Grossman ..... [editor@uppaa.org](mailto:editor@uppaa.org)  
Notable Books Chair: Mikel B. Classen ..... [classenmikel@gmail.com](mailto:classenmikel@gmail.com)

**KEEP YOUR NEWS COMING**

Send announcements, news, and market-  
ing ideas to your editor, Jansina Grossman,  
with “UPPAA News” in the subject line:  
[editor@uppaa.org](mailto:editor@uppaa.org)

**UNSPLASH PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Timothy Eberly, Mona Eendra,  
Glenn Carstens-Peters, Kelly  
Sikkema, Aaron Burden

**NEWSLETTER DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY:**



[www.rivershorebooks.com](http://www.rivershorebooks.com)